Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A distributed information processing system, comprising:

a first computing device having a client device interface ~~processor~~ adapted to receive requests for a type of information from a plurality of remote devices;

a second computing device having a stateless module manager ~~processor~~ adapted to receive and route said requests from said client device interface ~~processor~~; and

a plurality of third computing devices having information module~~s~~ ~~processors~~, wherein said information module~~s~~ ~~processors~~ register with said stateless module manager ~~processor~~, and wherein the stateless module manager ~~processor~~ routes said requests to an appropriate one of said plurality of information module~~s~~ ~~processors~~ in accordance with the type of information requested, wherein the stateless module manager ~~processor~~ handles service collisions in which a plural~~ity of~~ information module~~s~~ ~~processors~~ are capable of responding to the requests, such that only one information module ~~processor~~ processes the requests, wherein the stateless module manager ~~processor~~ enables only one of the information module~~s~~ ~~processors~~ to claim the requests and to receive all [[own]] subsequent requests associated with~~based on~~ the type of information ~~being common to each of the requests and the subsequent requests~~, the stateless module manager enabling the only one information module to receive the requests and all subsequent requests independent of an availability of the information modules for previous requests; and

wherein said client device interface ~~processor~~ is adapted to receive a plurality of request types, said request types comprising:

on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface ~~processor~~ by a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand response;

scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface ~~processor~~ by said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a subscription service provided by one of said information module~~s~~ ~~processors~~; and

event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface ~~processor~~ from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.

2. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 1, wherein the requests to the device interface ~~processor~~ are formatted as an HTML or plain-text formatted e-mail or serializable Java objects.

3. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 1, wherein the appropriate one of said plurality of information module<u>s</u> ~~processors~~ generates a response that is returned to said stateless module manager ~~processor~~, and wherein said stateless module manager ~~processor~~ routes said response to said client interface device ~~processor~~ for delivery to a requestor.

4. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 1, wherein the stateless module manager ~~processor~~ enables the one of the information module<u>s</u> ~~processors~~ to own the subsequent requests independent of which of the plurality of remote devices transmits the requests and the subsequent requests.

5. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 1, wherein said requests are made to said stateless module manager ~~processor~~ as one of a synchronous or asynchronous request, wherein synchronous requests are handled on a first-in-first-out basis, and wherein asynchronous requests are processed and returned when completed.

6. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 1, wherein instances associated with said stateless module manager ~~processor~~ are created each time a new request is received and discarded after the request has been handled.

7. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 6, wherein instances associated with said stateless module manager ~~processor~~ are stateless and multi-threaded.

8. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 1, wherein information module<u>s</u> ~~processors~~ are loaded locally and remotely, wherein local module processors reside on a same physical device as said stateless module manager processor, and wherein remote module processors are located on other devices.

9. (Previously Presented) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 8, wherein communication between locally loaded module processors and said stateless module manager processor is accomplished via memory calls, object inheritance or inter-process communication.

10. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 8, wherein communication between remotely loaded module processors and said stateless module manager ~~processor~~ is accomplished via TCP/IP sockets.

11. (Currently Amended) The distributed information processing system as recited in claim 1, wherein the subscription service further comprises a subscriber database, wherein information is sent by said information module ~~processors~~, and said subscriber database is consulted to determine to which users of said remote devices the information should be forwarded.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving and responding to requests for electronic information in a distributed information processing system, the method comprising:

receiving requests for a type of information at a client device interface;

forwarding said requests to a stateless module manager;

consulting a registry of available information modules; and

forwarding said requests to an appropriate information module as determined in accordance with the type of information requested;

handling service collisions if plural information modules are capable of responding to the requests, such that only one information module processes the requests, and enabling only one of the information modules to claim the requests and to own subsequent requests based on the type of information being common to each of the requests and the subsequent requests, the stateless module manager enabling the only one information module to receive the requests and all subsequent requests independent of an availability of the information modules for previous requests;

wherein said client device interface is adapted to receive a plurality of request types, said request types comprising:

on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface by a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand response;

scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface by said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a subscription service provided by one of said information modules; and

event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

maintaining a list of supported services provided by each of said information modules; and

registering said information modules for responding to requests for said type of electronic information.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the one of the information modules owns the subsequent requests independent of a source of the requests and the subsequent requests.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said requests are made to said stateless module manager as one of a synchronous or asynchronous request, wherein synchronous requests are handled on a first-in first-out basis, and wherein asynchronous requests are processed and returned when completed.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, said method further comprising:

creating an instance of said stateless module manager upon receiving said request; and

discarding said instance after said response has been handled.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for receiving and responding to requests for electronic information in a distributed information processing system, said computer executable instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving requests for a type of electronic information at a client device interface;

forwarding said requests to a stateless module manager;

consulting a registry of available information modules;

forwarding said request to an appropriate information module as determined in accordance with the type of electronic information requested;

handling service collisions if plural information modules are capable of responding to the requests, such that only one information module processes the requests, and enabling only one of the information modules to claim the requests and to own subsequent requests based on the type of electronic information being common to each of the requests and the subsequent requests, the stateless module manager enabling the only one information module to receive the requests and all subsequent requests independent of an availability of the information modules for previous requests;

wherein said client device interface is adapted to receive a plurality of request types, said request types comprising:

on-demand requests, which are sent to said client device interface by a user of one of said remote devices when said user desires an on-demand response;

scheduled requests, which are sent to said client device interface by said user when said user desires a plurality of scheduled responses from a subscription service provided by one of said information modules; and

event driven requests, which are sent to said client device interface from one of said remote devices when certain criteria are met.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17, further comprising computer executable instructions for performing the steps of:

maintaining a list of supported services provided by each of said information modules.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein the one of the information modules owns the subsequent requests independent of a source of the requests and the subsequent requests.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein said requests are made to said stateless module manager as one of a synchronous or asynchronous request, wherein synchronous requests are handled on a first-in-first-out basis, and wherein asynchronous requests are processed and returned when completed.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 17, further comprising executable instructions for performing the steps of:

creating an instance of said stateless module manager upon receiving said request; and

discarding said instance after said response has been handled.

22-32. (Cancelled).